story and art by
Snailords

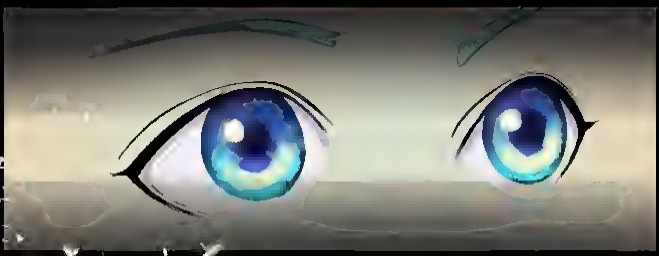
Nightmare Factory

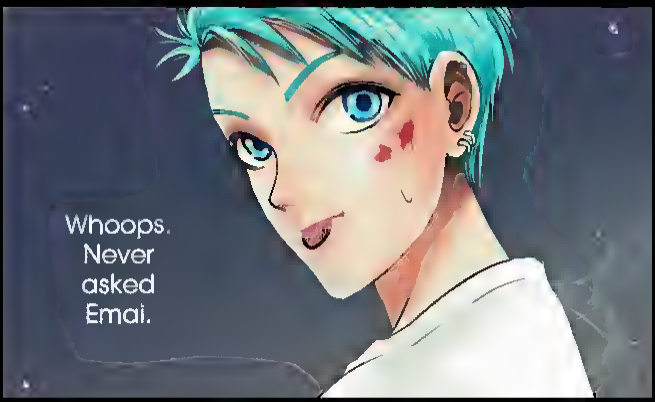
Chapter 3.4

Nightmare Exchange

People like you expasperate me.
Oh, trust me, I hate myself more than you do at the moment.
Why can't I just mind my own business?
Answer this question, then I'd wake Sleeping Kraken over there.
Nightmare Exchange grants a wish if you win after 24 hours.

What is her wish?





You recklessly rushed to her

aid, clueless about her wish.

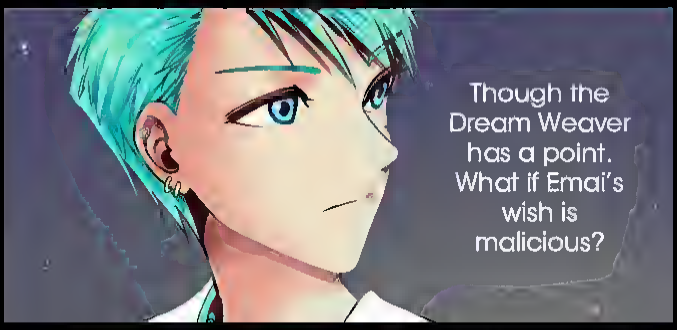
She could be desiring the end of the world for all you know.

Your actions are quite irresponsible, don't you think?

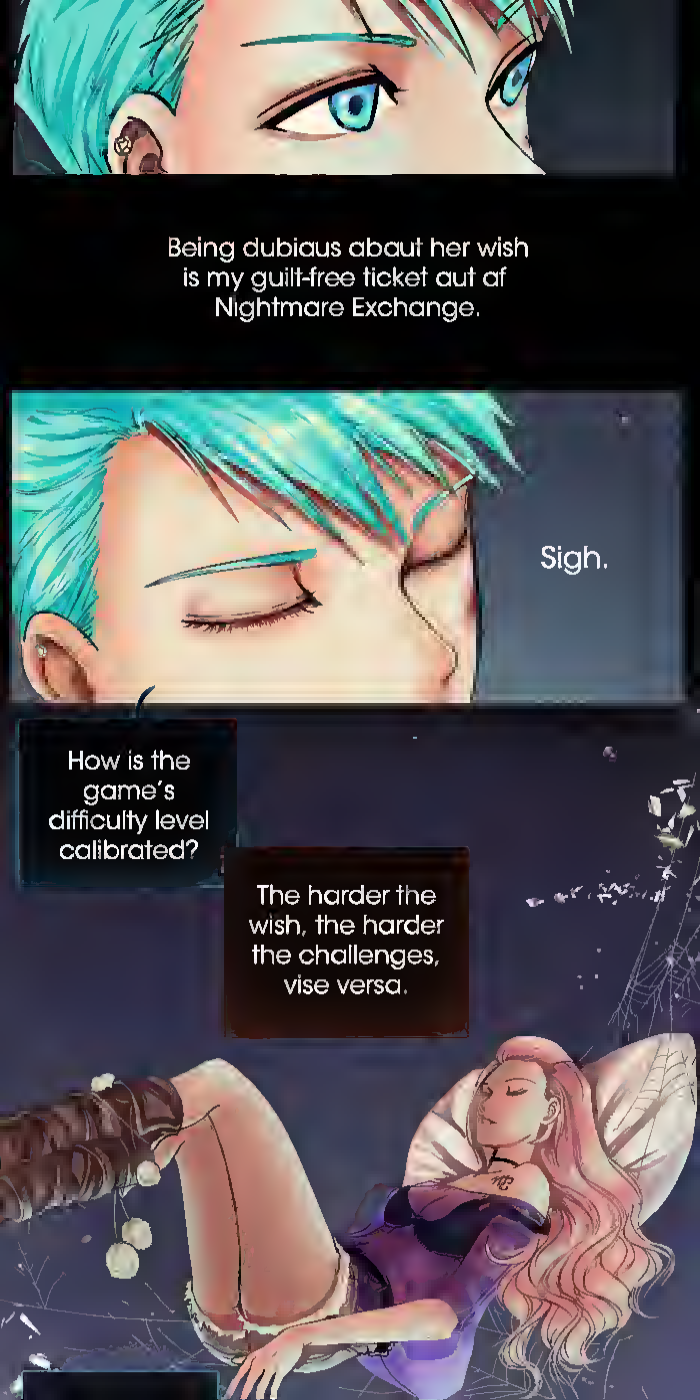
Oh, right. And severing someone's hand is soooo responsible.

Ok, Dream Weaver*.

Dream Weaver: Kreyul's nickname for the Game Master.

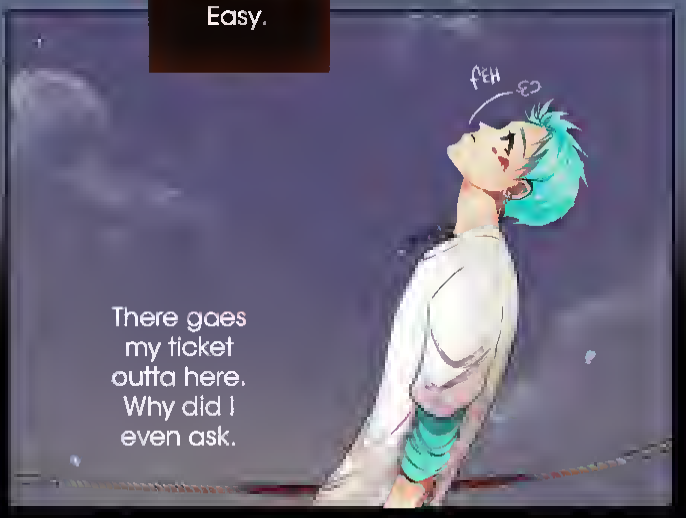


This is none of my business anyways, I should leave. No, I should at least ask him—but...


Being dubious about her wish is my guilt-free ticket out of Nightmare Exchange.
Sigh.
How is the game's difficulty level calibrated?
The harder the wish, the harder the challenges, vise versa.

What level is Emai's wish?

Easy.



There goes my ticket outta here. Why did I even ask.

Trading 24 years of one's life for an easy wish sounds excessive.

Emai seems eager to exit the game. I doubt she's here out of her own volition.

I don't care what verbal wish Emai told you.

She did tell me her wish, "Get me out of here within 12 hours."

I'll assist her to achieve just that.

Since I must stay
Summon boba tea.
Boba tea summoning denied.
COUGH
COUGH!

KREYUL'S WEAKNESS

Experiences hemoptysis (coughing up blood) if he thinks of fighting.

Strike such violent thoughts from mind before you exsanguinate, sire.

Exsanguinate: Bleed to death
Greyon: Phirre's fail attempt at Kreyul's name.

Kreyul laces his boba tea with adaptogenic herbs.

Kava Kava, Passion flowers, ashwagandha, Siberian gingseng etc.

Promoting homeostasis, reducing anxiety and stress. Keeping Kreyul relaxed while reserving mental clarity.

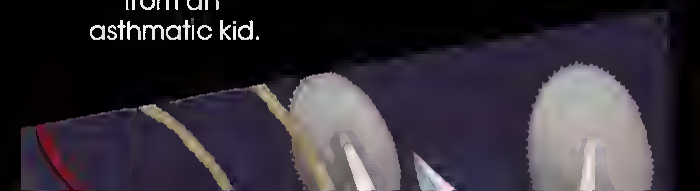
In short, the boba teas are essential home remedies

to suppress his

strange reaction (hemoptysis) to adrenaline and cortisol (stress hormones)

Spider Nurse, incoming.

What the Dream Weaver did is the equivalence of taking an inhaler from an asthmatic kid.



Shuff'

Shuff'

DASH
The downside to using a paper plane for transportation
I can predict exactly where you're heading.
All I gotta do is intercept the plane and wait for you to transport—

?
I didn't export myself, but thanks for fetching.
You
Sketch
<Summon:Piranflies_x50:
Lyons_Dimension:AndromedaGalaxy/>
Import
Piranflies

Exsanguinate: Bleed to death.
Hemaptysis: Coughing up blood.
Adaptagenic herbs: Help the body deal with effects of stress.
Valitian: Power of using one's will.
Calibrate: Measure, adjust.
Excessive: More than necessary.
Asthma: A respiratory medical condition. Difficult breathing etc.
Hameastasis: Maintaining equilibrium within the body despite external environment.
Keel aver: Faint, black out, to die.
Kraken: Mythical sea monster.
Maliciaus: Harmful intentions.